

## House Joint Resolution 2015 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2015  
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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
2 of the State of Iowa modifying the oath of members of the  
3 general assembly.  
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 Section 32 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of  
4 Iowa is amended to read as follows:

5 **Oath of members.** SEC. 32. Members of the General Assembly  
6 shall, before they enter upon the duties of their respective  
7 offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:  
8 "I do solemnly swear, or affirm, (as the case may be,) that I  
9 will support the Constitution of the United States, and the  
10 Constitution of the State of Iowa, and that I will faithfully  
11 discharge the duties of Senator, (or Representative, as the  
12 case may be,) according to the best of my ability, so help me  
13 God." And members of the General Assembly are hereby empowered  
14 to administer to each other the said oath or affirmation.

15 If a member of the General Assembly, by reason of religious  
16 training and belief or for other reasons of good conscience,  
17 cannot take the oath or affirmation prescribed with the words  
18 "so help me God" included, the words "so help me God" shall be  
19 deleted, and the oath or affirmation taken in such modified  
20 form.

21 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment  
22 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the  
23 General Assembly to be chosen at the next general election  
24 for members of the General Assembly, and the Secretary of  
25 State is directed to cause the same to be published for three  
26 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as  
27 provided by law.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the  
30 Constitution of the State of Iowa to modify the prescribed oath  
31 of members of the general assembly by adding the words "so help  
32 me God".

33 The resolution also provides that, for religious reasons or  
34 reasons of conscience, a member of the General Assembly may  
35 take the oath without the words "so help me God" included.

1     The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next  
2 general assembly before the amendment is submitted to the  
3 electorate for ratification.